(c) what steps Government have taken to resolve this issue and present the short supply of vital drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) There are general complaints regarding sale of some bulk drugs to the formulators at prices higher than the notified prices. A few specific complaints have been received which have been forwarded to concerned Stage Drug Controller for necessary inquiry and action, as per provisions of DPCO, 1987. The government has also cautioned all major bulk drug producers individually as well as through their associations in this regard so that formulators are not put to any loss.

पेनिसिलिन की आयात प्रक्रिया

127. **श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार पेनिसिलिन के आयात की प्रक्रिया को उदार बनाने पर विचार कर रही है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चिंता मोहन) : (क) और (ख) चालू एक्सम नीति में पेनिसिलिन आयात की नकारात्मक सूची में शामिल हैं और इसके आयात को प्रत्येक वर्ष तैयार की गई एक विशेष नीति के अंतर्गत विनियमित किया जाना जारी है ।

Drug shortage

138. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country is facing a severe shortage and number of essential medicines have either totally disappeared or have become increasingly scarce over the last few weeks;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) No general shortage of any drug has came to the notice of the Government except instances of shortage of some branded formulations, in some localised areas, for which therapeutic equivalents were normally available. Some shortages have arisen because of some dislocation/uncertainty due to change in EXIM Policy whereby imports in drug sector were required to be done on the market determined exchange rate. Government has recently reduced duties on several bulk drugs and intermediates in order to avoid Price increases in medicines. This measures is expected to tackle the above situation substantially.

Reduction in custom duty on bulk drugs

139. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the bulk drugs on which custom duty has been reduced to 80 per cent i.e. by 30 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that average escalation on account of purchase of foreign exchange partially at market rate & partially at official rate works out to 12 per cent only;

(c) whether 18 per cent duty reduction unintended benefit would be allowed to be retained by the producers or it will be passed on to the public;

(d) what efforts have been made in this direction and in how many cases the prices of the formulations have been reduced so far;